

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DUBLIN 01835 241514Z

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EURE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00

INR-05 INRE-00 CPR-01 PRS-01 RSC-01 /036 W

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O 241320Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6295

C O N F I D E N T I A L DUBLIN 1835

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EI, OVIP (FITZGERALD, GARRET)

SUBJECT: VISIT OF FOREIGN MINISTER FITZGERALD

REF: STATE 279811 280635

1. DCM INFORMED FONOFF PERMSEC PAUL KEATING OF PROPOSED SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY 8 MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON PER REFTELS. KEATING CONFIRMED ACCEPTABILITY OF JANUARY 8 AND SAID THAT IRISH WERE HAPPY WITH THE PROPOSED SCHEDULE EXCEPT THEY EXPRESSED "SURPRISE" THAT BILATERAL MEETING BETWEEN THE SECRETARY AND FITZGERALD WAS SCHEDULED FOR ONLY ONE HOUR. THEY EXPRESSED THEIR CONCERN AND THEIR HOPE THAT MORE TIME COULD BE BUILT INTO THE PROGRAM FOR DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE TWO PRINCIPALS.

2. ON THE SCHEDULE, PRESENT PLANS CALL FOR FITZGERALD TO DEPART DUBLIN JANUARY 6 AND THUS HE WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR OTHER MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON JANUARY 7. HE IS OBLIGED TO RETURN TO DUBLIN FROM WASHINGTON THE EVENING OF JANUARY 8.

3. KEATING STATED THAT THEY HAD JUST DECIDED THAT FONMINISTER WOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY HIMSELF (KEATING); NOEL DORR, ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS AND IRISH "POLITICAL DIRECTOR"; AND EAMON GALLAGHER, ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS. KEATING EXPRESSED THE STRONG PREFERENCE THAT THE ENTIRE PARTY BE
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PAGE 02 DUBLIN 01835 241514Z

INCLUDED IN MEETINGS AS WELL AS THE LUNCHEON.

4. COMMENT: THE EMBASSY IS FULLY AWARE OF THE PRESSURES ON THE SECRETARY'S TIME AND WE REALIZE THAT ONE HOUR'S BILATERAL AND LUNCHEON PROBABLY REPRESENT THE MAXIMUM TIME AVAILABLE TO THE SECRETARY. HOWEVER, IN KEEPING WITH DEPARTMENT'S REQUEST (STATE 279811) FOR SUGGESTIONS ON "HOW TO HANDLE FITZGERALD, SINCE WE WANT TO LEAVE HIM IN NO DOUBT AS TO IMPORTANCE WE PLACE ON US-EC CONSULTATIONS". WE BELIEVE THAT WE COULD GIVE NO MORE IMPORTANT SIGNAL THAN TO ACCEDE TO THE REQUEST FOR MORE TIME FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SECRETARY. OTHER HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS WOULD BE HELPFUL, OF COURSE.

5. IN PRACTICE GALLAGHER AND DORR WILL PROBABLY BE THE MAIN CHANNELS FOR US/EC CONSULTATIONS, SO WE HOPE THEY CAN BE FULLY INCLUDED.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974DUBLIN01835
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740373-1017
From: DUBLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741213/aaaaakmj.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 74 STATE 279811, 74 280635
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAY 2002 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <25 MAR 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF FOREIGN MINISTER FITZGERALD
TAGS: OVIP, EI, (FITZGERALD, GARRET)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005